

Message Text

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11

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AGR-10 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 FRB-01

OMB-01 L-02 TAR-01 /052 W

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R 160745Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9450

UNCLAS TOKYO 4984

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE SUSPENSION OF LDC TARIFF PREFERENCES FOR
SOME TEXTILE AND SUNDRY GOODS

1. GOJ SUSPENDED PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS ON IMPORTS
OF MENS' AND BOYS' UNDERWEAR FROM TAIWAN EFFECTIVE
APRIL 5 AND ON IMPORTS OF TWINE, ROPE, CABLE, UMBRELLAS,
AND WALKING STICKS FROM ALL LDC'S EFFECTIVE APRIL 12.
BY ABOVE DATES IMPORTS THESE ITEMS HAD EXCEEDED
CEILINGS ESTABLISHED UNDER GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF
PREFERENCES (GSP) FOR THE ENTIRE FY75 (BEGAN APRIL 1).
JAPANESE PRESS REPORTS ANTICIPATE SUSPENSION IN NEAR
FUTURE OF LDC PREFERENCES ON ALL OUTERGARMENTS (MEN'S
WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S).
2. THESE ACTIONS REGARDED BY SOME AS SIGNALING
GOJ MOVE TOWARD STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF GSP CEILINGS
IN ORDER TO PROTECT SLUMPING DOMESTIC MANUFACTURERS OF
TEXTILE AND SUNDRY GOODS. (UNDER FY74 ANTI-
INFLATIONARY POLICY GOJ HAD SOUGHT TO INCREASE
LOW-COST SUPPLIES THESE ITEMS BY EXTENDING
PREFERENTIAL TARIFF RATES TO IMPORTS FROM LDC'S
VALUED AT OVER 20 PERCENT MORE THAN THE ESTABLISHED
CEILINGS -- 295,600 MILLION YEN FOR 11 MOS. OF
FY74 AGAINST FULL FY CEILING OF 246,000 MILLION YEN.)
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HOWEVER, MANY LDC PRODUCTS IN CATEGORIES
MENTIONED PARA 1. ABOVE APPEAR TO BE COMPETITIVE
IN JAPAN AT NORMAL TARIFF RATES WHICH FOR MADE-
UP TEXTILE GOODS ARE DOUBLE THE 6-7 PERCENT

GSP RATES. JAPAN'S TOTAL IMPORTS FOR 11 MOS. IN
FY74 OF THESE ITEMS WERE 2 TO 10 TIMES THE VALUE
OF GOODS ADMITTED UNDER GSP RATES.
HODGSON

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